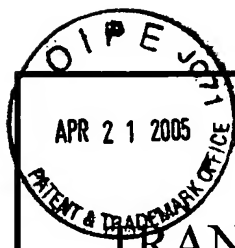


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Express Mail Mailing Label No. EV596441235US

TRANSMITTAL
FORM

Application Serial Number	10/081,163
Filing Date	February 20, 2002
First Named Inventor	Chubinskaya
Group Art Unit	1641
Examiner Name	Gary W. Counts
Attorney Docket No.	STK-081
Patent No.	Not applicable
Issue Date	Not applicable

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Check Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson including Drawings [Total Sheets ____] <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Form PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Sequence Listing submission <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy/CD <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s) for large table or computer program <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certificate of Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate) <input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below)
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Respectfully submitted,

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Express Mail Mailing Label No. EV596441235US

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. STK-081
(0519290.0166)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Chubinskaya et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/081,163 GROUP NO.: 1641
FILING DATE: February 20, 2002 EXAMINER: Gary W. Counts
TITLE: Methods of Using Bone Morphogenic Proteins as Biomarkers for
Determining Cartilage Degeneration and Aging

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action mailed on January 21, 2005, in the above-identified patent application. Applicants believe that no extension-of-time or fee is required for this Amendment and Response to be entered and considered. However, please consider this a conditional petition for the proper extension, if one is required, and a conditional authorization to charge any related extension fees or other fees necessary for entry and consideration of this paper to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-1721.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.